Dear Jim,

2/26/75

By coincidence Ed Habak phoned last night and in a different way we touched on what you had raised in connection with your approach to Bud's board of directors.

Ed has read most of Post Mortem. He is impressed. He even likes the writing. When I raised questions about my unhidden anger he passed this off as requiring only slight editing and said that he found I had done well, in the writing by maintaining an appropriate sense of horror.

(Without pouring the emotion on to the paper I can't work well, so I'd been concerned about that. I do recall that some time after 2569-70 I did go over the first two parts and cut some of this out. It was long after the xeroxing.)

I take some comfort from this because Ed's life is spent reading what the Establishmentarian press published and he is programmed into what it likes.

Although I was tired and was dozing while we talked later in the long conversation, I was alert at the beginning, and this is what he began with. (Too much physical work yesterday.)

He was picking out what he found most persuasive and impressive. It began apparent that he has not yet completed the third part. Yet he agreed that the book has the potential for breaking the whole thing open. Without having hit the hottest but with an awareness of how it is put together and with, I presume, a recollection of thoseparts that I had feared most people reading it critically might regard as prolix.

It is odd that he and I and you and I within a few hours discussed the same thing in different ways. While I was shaving this morning, later than usual, it came back to mind. This thinking is what prompts my writing that you may not see prior to the board meeting. Even if we meet at the TV studio you may not have time to read it prior to the Ray decision is announced and that will keep you busy. I'll probably not be able to complete this in time to mail it when I take Lil into town. I sleft late.

In my view the spectro suit has this capability. It alone. That will be both good and bad. My objective is not alone to break the case open. Doing it on the basis of the spectro alone would be to do it entirely out of context.

Giving context was one of the objectives of the intent to sue for the Memo of Transfer. And this same thought is appropriate to the timing of the Jones Harris ploy.

If we break this apart with the spectro suit, and without some new trickery it is inevitable given a fair shake in court, the full text of Post Mortem will still be necessary for full comprehension of what Ed calls the horror of it all. It can't be just laying it on J. Edgar Hoover or Earl Warren.

I haven't looked at this work since the Ned Crosby time but I remain confident in its overwhelming nature and that all the essential details of both the subversive campaign and proper Commission's first responsibility organization of the Commission's work and the changes in those outlines. And why there are the digressions, as others may see them, into what the average reader or editor might consider no more than a diversion or prolix. Why I addressed the press in it.

It is another reason I'd be satisfied with the publication of the full work in return for a condensation which could not survive alone, the story being that incredible and requiring the full text for credibility of any condensation. It is, as Ed said, beyond being merely Byzantine. (He was rather taken by the military aspect of this and I cautioned him not to take too simplistic a view, that it doesn't explain all.)

What I am saying is that the appearance of the full work now is more essential if it also seems impossible. (Here the guilt of the wealthy ones is depressing for they could easily and painlessly have made it possible.) And this leads to my suggestion that you write Slawson. If there were time for other approaches, they also should be made. But I can't and I think you can't. I tried it our on Joe Ball years ago without success. Best,